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DOGMA
MINERALS PROGRAM
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JUN 25 1990

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

June 20, 1990

Mr. Ken Kluksdahl, Manager
Tenneco Minerals
P.O. Box 2650
St. George, UT 84770

Dear Mr. Kluksdahl:

We are writing in reply to your letter of May 10, 1990 in which you raised several questions concerning the ground water permit the Bureau recently issued your company. Our response to your questions are in the same order presented in your correspondence.

Best Available Treatment Performance Standard (Pg 4). Detection of fluid in the leak detection system, with no discharge to the ground water does not subject Tenneco to automatic payment of fines. It does require implementation of appropriate corrective action. Only upon unsatisfactory resolution of the problem, are penalties normally ever considered.

Special Permit Conditions - Ground water monitoring (pg 5). The monitoring technique proposed by your company was to drill an upstream and downstream well. If water is not found and the wells cannot be completed and monitored as planned, compliance with the permit cannot be established. Whether more than one attempt will be required, cannot be stated at this time, because the results and the logs of the first attempt are not available.

Background Water Quality Determination and protection Level Monitoring - cyanide (p.6)

UAC R448-6-6.4C allows the Executive Secretary to establish protection levels for substances without ground water quality standards in order to protect public health. We choose the total cyanide value for the following reasons.

1. Cyanide forms many complex compounds, some of which are soluble and toxic.
2. EPA issued a life-time health advisory on September 30, 1985 with a 0.2 mg/l total cyanide.
3. EPA issued an advisory on March 31, 1987 with a 0.154 mg/l for total cyanide, using the analyses method. This advisory is close to publication.

Mr. Ken Kluksdahl, Manager
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Penalties for violations of Permit Conditions (pg. 9)

The penalties are set by statute and are the maximum that could be levied for any person who willfully or negligently violates permit conditions. They are not necessarily imposed unless a matter cannot be resolved administratively and is referred for civil action.

Proper Operation and Maintenance (pg.8)

We realize your concerns about system failures, and understand that the statement could be viewed as being broad. However, we believe that if company personnel diligently operate, inspect, and maintain equipment and observe safety regulations, accidents will be infrequent. Fines are unlikely if spills or other problems occur that are properly reported, cleaned up and measures taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

If you have any further questions we would like to arrange a meeting, at your convenience to discuss them further. Please call Mack Croft at 538-6146.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Pollution Control Committee



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

cc: DOGM
Local Health Dept.

MGC:kc
Q:Tenneco. ltr